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| 1 CLAIM | S |
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3 1. A control module comprising:

a motherboard bus connector for communication

5 with a motherboard;

a motherboard bus to serial port bridge module;

7 at least one serial port connector; and

a processor module.

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10 2. The control module of Claim 1 adapted to provide at

least one peripheral control port for said

12 motherboard.

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14 3. The control module of any previous Claim wherein the

processor module comprises a monitoring means for

16 monitoring the state of said motherboard.

17

18 4. The control module of Claim 3 wherein the monitoring

means further monitors the state of software running

on said motherboard.

21

22 5. The control module of any previous Claim wherein the

23 processor module has a battery power supply separate

24 from the PC power supply.

25

26 6. The control module of any previous Claim wherein the

27 processor module further comprises a power supply

28 monitoring means for monitoring the state of a power

29 supply supplying said motherboard.

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31 7. A system comprising a motherboard and the control

32 module of any previous Claim.

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| server means for providing event handlers for least one serial port corresponding to said at one serial port connector and operating substantially in between the application layer the operating system layer of the software exe on the motherboard. | The sys | e system of Cl | aim 7 furt  | ner compris | sing a soc  | ket    |
|--|---------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| one serial port connector and operating substantially in between the application layer the operating system layer of the software exe  | server  | rver means for | providing   | event hand  | dlers for a | at     |
| substantially in between the application layer the operating system layer of the software exe  | least o | ast one serial | . port corr | esponding t | to said at  | least  |
| 6 the operating system layer of the software exe   | one se  | e serial port  | connector   | and operati | ing         |        |
|  | substa  | bstantially in | between t   | he applicat | tion layer  | and    |
| 7 on the motherhoard   | the op  | e operating sy | stem layer  | of the so   | ftware exe  | cuting |
| , on the mother board.   | on the  | the motherboa  | ard.        |             | ·           |        |

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9. The system of Claim 7 further comprising a socket
server means for providing event handlers for said
at least one peripheral control port and operating
substantially in between the application layer and
the operating system layer of the software executing
on the motherboard.

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10. The system of any previous Claim further comprising
a battery, a power supply and a battery management
circuit wherein an electrical connection between
said battery and said power supply is diverted
through said battery management circuit and said
battery management circuit is controlled by said
processor module.